

## **Regular City Council Meeting; July 9th, 2019**

The Garfield City Council met on Tuesday, July the 9th, 2019, in the Alderman Terry Warren room, for the Regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Blackburn prior to opening the meeting; started with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silent reflection and/or prayer.

Mayor Blackburn called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

Recorder-Treasurer Vining called Roll: Council Members David Edwards, Barry Kitterman, Jim Teeselink, and Scott Wassman present. Mayor Gary Blackburn, Recorder-Treasurer Teresa Vining and City Attorney Mike Bearden present.

### **June Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting presented. Council member Wassman moved, seconded by Council member Teeselink, to approve the June 11th, 2019 regular City Council minutes as presented. The roll being called, all in favor Motion passed.

### **June Fun-Park Grant Public Forum Special Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Fun Park Grant Public Forum presented, Council member Kitterman moved, seconded by Council member Edwards, to approve the June 11th, 2019; Special Meeting minutes as presented. The roll being called, all in favor Motion passed.

### **Proclamation Presented**

Evie Comfort was presented with a City of Garfield 'Outstanding Citizen Proclamation' for her championship in the care, concern and rescue for local abandoned pets in and around the City of Garfield, and her willingness to serve with compassion all animals and citizens in the City of Garfield. Therefore, July the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 has been declared as Evie Comfort day in the City of Garfield. Signed and presented by Mayor Gary Blackburn and the Garfield City Council.

### **Guest Speakers**

District One (1) Justice of the Peace Mike McKenzie spoke on the Quorum courts part in the NEBCO Special Election. He stated that the Quorum courts only roll required by State Constitution was to set the election dates. The Quorum Court heard NEBCOs request being they have not had a rate increase in 19 years, they are losing volunteers, are in need of hiring two full time firefighters, and replacing equipment in 2020. Due to NEBCO declaring this an emergency, the Quorum Court tried to accommodate NEBCO with election dates by the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 cut off, which is the last opportunity date to reflect the NEBCO dues increase on the 2020's County Tax rolls, if the Vote passes. Otherwise, they would have to wait until 2021.

Deputy Cody Elkinton came to answer the City Councils questions concerning the Proposed Dog Ordinance for the City of Garfield. After open discussion the Council decided the financial responsibility for this is far beyond what the City could take on. Further discussion continued on this under Agenda item 'Proposed Dog Ordinance'.

Evie Comfort, spoke concerning the 'Proposed Dog Ordinance' as well. Ms. Comfort said she has a 501 C 3 non-profit facility for animal rescue. Ms. Comfort stated she would love to help with the inner-city animal control in Garfield, providing a service to the community. Her facility has access to 501 C Vet discounts which helps get things done cheaper when caring for these animals. She could help with animal pick up and transport, and hopefully help keep these animals out of the system and kill facilities. Ms. Comfort asked if she could get a proposal together to present to the Council to see if her organization could possibly be a better option financially for the City's animal control, instead of the County. The Council was in agreement for this option and asked for Ms. Comfort to bring a proposal for presentation at the August City Council Meeting.

#### **Planning Commission Committee Report**

Chairman Jeff Dodson, reported on their June 28<sup>th</sup> Planning meeting; they had a lot split request, and discussed the Proposed Amendments the Planning Commission submitted for Ordinance #153 to the City Council which is now in review. Their next meeting is July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### **Regions Bank Proposal**

Council Member Wassman moved, seconded by Council Member Edwards, to table this item of Business until the representative could be present to discuss the proposal at the August City Council meeting. The roll being called all in favor, motion passed.

#### **Water Department Committee Report;**

Water Clerk Stacy Thompson reported on the systems totals reports and reported water loss was at 32.77% for June. Mayor Blackburn said the City's plan to get water loss under control is to set up jump meters to monitor the water loss, to help the Water Department better analyze the situation.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **Proposed Master Street Plan Ordinance**

Council Member Edwards moved, seconded by Council Member Wassman to table this item of business until the August City Council Meeting. The roll being called, all in favor, motion passed.

##### **Proposed Dog Ordinance**

Council Member Edwards moved, seconded by Council Member Teeselink to table this item until Ms. Evie Comfort can bring the proposal to City Hall, once it is received it would be added to the following Council Meetings agenda. The roll being called, all in favor motion passed.

##### **Building Code Inspections**

Mayor Blackburn said the Benton County Risk Assessment Officer could not be in attendance for this Council meeting, due to prior engagements. He will however be able to attend the August City Council Meeting to discuss this item of business.

### **NEBCO Special Election**

City Attorney Mike Bearden spoke concerning the special election, and City Ordinance #135 concerning special elections. The concern being the Quorum Court calling for a special election in the Garfield City Limits jurisdiction of Authority and the City of Garfield not being contacted. When there is any kind of dues, fees, and so forth invoked upon the residents of Garfield, the City should have some say, to protect the citizens. Council Member Edwards moved, seconded by Council Member Kitterman to allow the City Attorney and Mayor Blackburn to meet with the County's Attorney, to discuss this situation, to see what the City can do before the 30 days is up to challenge the Special Election. The Council wants to ensure the citizens are protected from this slippery slope, that could allow others to overstep their legislative authority on the residents of Garfield. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion passed.

### **Three (3) Proposed Recommendations' to Ordinance #153**

After discussion, proposed recommendations from the Planning Commission will be incorporated into a Revised Ordinance #153; with inclusions from the City Council. 1.) to use one acre across the board 2.) proof must be provided that the current septic lines comply with the 'current' State regulations 3.) the property owner must provide an approved perk test. Council Member Wassman moved, seconded by Council Member Edwards to incorporate the recommendations by the Planning Commission into a revised Ordinance #153.

### **New Business**

#### **June 2019 Statement of Revenue and Expenses**

Open for discussion; two letters from citizens on Pinebrooke West and Sugar Creek. Mayor Blackburn said the roads that the Council approved last year, were North Wimpy Jones, North Ashmore, Deer Meadow, Zachary, and Pinebrooke West up until Laura Lane, in the amount of \$241,756.00; we have used \$150,000.00 of this approved budget amount, not all budgeted roads have been completed. The Council will consider what budget funding is available once the approved roads are complete, then review new requests that come in, by due process. Mayor Blackburn said he will continue using the Budget as the Council has approved. After discussion, Council Member Wassman moved, seconded by Council Member Edwards, to approve the June 'monthly', financials for General, Street and Water as presented; The roll being called, vote was as follows: Jim Teeselink aye, David Edwards aye, and Barry Kitterman aye, Scott Wassman aye. Motion passed.

#### **General, Street and Water, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Reconciliations**

Proposed Changes discussed; Council Member Kitterman moved, Council Member Wassman seconded to extend the meeting to 8:20 pm, with a 5-minute break. Roll call vote all in favor, motion passed.

**Mayor Blackburn called the meeting back to order at 8:05 pm for the Continuation of the General, Street and Water, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Reconciliations.** Further discussion made; Council Member Wassman moved, seconded by Council Member Edwards, to adopt the second quarter budget reconciliations for the General, Street and Water Fund with the requested corrections. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Jim Teeselink aye, David Edwards aye, and Barry Kitterman aye, Scott Wassman aye. Motion passed.

#### **Meeting adjourned**

Council Member Kitterman moved, seconded by Council Member Teeselink to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., after the roll being called, motion passed unanimously.

Passed and approved this 12th day of July, 2019.

Gary Blackburn; 7/12/2019

Approved, Mayor Gary Blackburn

Gary Blackburn

Teresa D. Vining; 7/12/2019

Attested, Recorder-Treasurer Teresa Vining

Teresa D. Vining